



FAULTS OF HAWAIIAN SUGAR EXPLAINED AT KAUAI MEETING

Dr. Robert S. Norris Tells Kauai Chemists and Sugar Boilers of Complaints Heard

TAKES MAINLAND TRIP TO LEARN OBJECTIONS

Grains Small and Uneven and Too Large Quantities of Sulphate of Lime Found

(Mail Special to The Advertiser)

LIIHUE, July 25.—Last Saturday evening a meeting of the chemists and sugar boilers of Kauai was held in Lihue at which Dr. Robert S. Norris, from the Experiment Station, was present and gave a talk on his trip to the refineries in the east.

As is well known, the eastern refineries who now take the Hawaiian sugars have complained that Hawaiian sugars are not up to the standard of Cuban sugar for refinery purposes. The complaints have been very indefinite and contradictory in nature and for the purpose of finding out definitely just what was wrong Doctor Norris went east.

Too Much Lime Sulphate

The most common complaint of the refineries was the average smallness and lack of uniformity in the size of the sugar grains. The next most common complaint, and probably the most serious, is the presence of such a large amount of sulphate of lime. This forms a heavy scale on the evaporators and greatly cuts down on the output.

The first complaint is one that can be rather easily corrected as apparently all that is necessary is to increase the pan capacity and take a little more care in boiling. Already at least two factories, Waiwala and Ewa, are producing sugar very much superior to Cuban sugar, in size of grain, and fully as good in regard to uniformity of size.

The second complaint is not so easily corrected, if it can be at all. It is a subject which will require considerable thought and experimentation if a solution is to be obtained. One particular point brought out by Doctor Norris is the apparent unsoundness of the practice of using low grade products for seed grain. In a study of methods used in Cuban factories, out of twelve factories not one uses anything but first masecane for seed. This may possibly help if adopted here.

It is gratifying to note that there has already been a marked improvement in the quality of Hawaiian sugar. In fact so great has been the improvement and so well satisfied are the refineries that already there has been an offer to renew the present contract between the refineries and the Hawaiian Sugar Planters.

CUBAN CROP OF SUGAR ONE-SIXTH UNDER ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

NEW YORK, July 11.—Ensedio S. Azpiroz, secretary to President Menocal, of Cuba, with his wife and two children, is at the McAlpin Hotel for several days before leaving for Cape Cod.

"Cuba is normal, and there is no trace of panic as a result of the revolution," said Mr. Azpiroz yesterday. "Economic conditions are good and business is abnormal, especially in Havana. The sugar crop estimated before the revolution to be 21,000,000 bags, actually produced only 20,000,000, which brought approximately \$200,000,000, the estimate the full crop would have brought. The crop was damaged by the revolutionists, and yet the price was maintained."

"There is plenty of enthusiasm for the war in Cuba," continued Mr. Azpiroz. "We soon will have available a regular army of 18,000, and could draft if necessary about 25,000. We can do our bit best by producing crops and developing our resources. We shall also guard our coast and patrol the Gulf of Mexico. President Menocal has asked for \$30,000,000 for war purposes. This is expected to be voted by the congress by next Friday, and most of the loan will be subscribed for in Cuba. The government has ordered six submarine chasers. After a thorough investigation, no German submarine or aeroplane base has been found in Cuba. There are many Germans living in Cuba, but we have experienced little or no trouble with them, and so far they have not been required to register."

In speaking of Franklyn Lawrence and his "Cuban-American Society," Mr. Azpiroz said it was unauthorized by the Cuban government.

If you will leave your order for rubber stamps at The Advertiser office to fore noon today they will be ready for delivery tomorrow.

PHILIPPINE SUGAR INDUSTRY IS MAKING STEADY PROGRESS

Improved Methods Which Have Been Adopted Are Resulting in Production of Better Grades and New Developments Give Promise of Growth and Prosperity For the Industry

As owners of one Philippine sugar plantation which is incorporated here and listed on the local exchange, and as the probable source of the capitalization and development of other plantations and other sugar mills and companies, Honolulu has an interest attaching to news of the development of the sugar industry in those islands that is waiting in the wings from other sugar-producing districts.

In the last issue received here of Facts About Sugar appears the following resume of crop conditions and the progress of sugar raising and milling, under date of Manila, June 2:

The harvest of the present sugar crop of the Philippines has not been as satisfactory as was anticipated, on account of the unfavorable weather conditions which have prevailed in the island of Negros—the most important sugar district—during much of the present harvest period, following similar conditions which obtained during the same season of last year, which caused the young cane to be badly damaged from excess of water and prevented proper attention to the crop at a time when cultivation was of material importance.

Better Grades Produced

An encouraging fact in connection with the recent harvest, however, is the improvement of the grade of muscovado sugar manufactured. This is due largely to the gradual adoption of more modern methods, which have been advocated during the past three years by the bureau of agriculture in the clarification of the juice and the crystallization of the sugar. There are also increased quantities of centrifugal sugar manufactured each year in the modern factories here.

A new factory has been planned for the Pangasinan sugar district of Luzon. This factory will be strictly modern in every particular, and will be the first of its kind in the Philippines. It is an initial step towards the modernization of the sugar industry in that district.

Due to the high sucrose content and purity coefficient of the sugar cane grown in that province, a factory there should experience a profitable run from the very beginning.

Irrigation Favorably Received

The modern system of growing cane by the aid of irrigation is now favorably received by the Filipino planters at the Mindoro Sugar Estate, where at present it is not an easy task to provide enough water to satisfy their desires, notwithstanding the fact that the six-foot tunnel which passes through a hill to the Bunsaga River should supply an abundance of water for a much larger area than that now under cultivation. This is in marked contrast to the condition of affairs prevailing last year, when some of these same planters not only refused to apply the irrigation water provided, but also objected to the company's irrigation force doing the work when they attempted to save the crop from the long drought. When such convincing proof as the above results from the observations of cane growth on irrigated and unirrigated plantations in the period of one year, it is anticipated that the equally encouraging results will be obtained in other districts in the near future and that thus a better understanding will be had of the most effective method of applying the water and the proper quantity to use in order to obtain maximum results.

Poor Stand of Cane

A representative of the English firm handling the Norit patent, or "vegetable charcoal," process for filtering and bleaching cane juices, prevailing in the archipelago with a view to introducing the use of this process into the islands. The patent rights for the archipelago were purchased by a local firm and henceforth the process is expected to be widely employed in preference to the bone-char process, which is said to be much more expensive and for which it is, in addition, at present very difficult to procure materials.

Despatches from the Mayaguez and Arcebo districts of Porto Rico state that extremely poor stands of cane were obtained from the recent planting and the Insular Agricultural Experiment Station staff was requested to investigate the cause, as it was feared that some new plant disease was the cause. It appears that the trouble resulted from using poor cane points and also from lack of attention to cultivation during the critical period of growth as well as a possible deficiency of needed plant food material.

This same condition of affairs is brought to the writer's notice from different parts of the Philippines almost every year, but in this country it is particularly common during the month of April and the fore part of May—the close of the long dry season—since at this time there is scarcely enough moisture in the top layer of the soil to give the plants a start, or to enable them to retain their vitality until the showers begin to appear. As a consequence of the cane remaining in this condition for a time, insect pests, particularly termites, burrow into the points

and the planter usually believes these insects are the cause of the points dying, while as a matter of fact their presence is but a result of the point having died or at least partly dried up, thus providing plant tissue in which the pests may lodge.

Wages On Plantations

In Hawaii, Porto Rico, and various other tropical sugar producing countries the wage of the common laborers has constantly advanced until it has now reached upward of \$1 per day. This is quite a contrast to the wages paid to workmen here, which usually range from 40 to 50 centavos, Philippine currency, (25 to 40 cents). The question is often asked how the planters in other countries can afford to pay such high wages in the production of an article which brings the same market price as that of the Philippines when made into the same grade of finished product.

The explanation is simply that in those countries the industry is carried on along modern lines; the land is made to give maximum results at a minimum expense through the medium of crop rotation, fertilization, and irrigation. Wastes in the process of manufacture are minimized by the aid of modern methods and by the employment of skilled technical men, and the grade of the direct output is such as to command the highest market price.

According to a recent report from Louisiana furnished by the American Cane Growers' Association, the cost of producing "yellow clarified" or "plantation white" sugar has increased one quarter of one cent United States currency per pound over the cost in normal times. On account of the relatively low sucrose content in the juice from immature cane harvested in that subtropical state, in addition to the low fiber content of the cane, it is necessary to use a great deal of extra fuel, which is a heavy expense during the present high cost of the various classes of fuels.

As a contrast with the above condition, the sugar factories here which employ modern crushing plants have not only an abundance of bagasse for heat and power, but usually have a supply left over at the end of the campaign in cases where the factory has been running at full capacity.

High Freight Rates

The abnormally high overseas freight rates have caused a very great difference between the market price of Philippine sugar in the United States and that paid to the planters here. In order to combat this wide difference in price and cause a greater profit to accrue to the manufacturers, a number of the modern factories have been equipped to turn out plantation white sugar in one continuous process. This is readily sold in the local markets. The price obtained for this sugar ranges from \$1.50 to \$2 per 100 pounds lower than that of standard refined sugar and this sugar is preferred by certain classes of people, not alone because of its lower price as compared with the highly refined product, but also because of the pleasant flavor which is characteristic of sugar-cane products.

AMERICA SUPPLIES PROSPEROUS CUBA

United States Furnishes Construction Materials and Machinery For Sugar Mills

Cuba's prosperity has resulted in extensive plans for new sugar mills, new railways, and many other phases of engineering activity, all of which will mean new orders for American construction material and machinery, according to an official survey of the situation recently completed by Special Agent W. W. Ewing of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce.

A number of new sugar mills are projected for this season, and railway construction and extension is being planned on a considerable scale. The heavy traffic movement of both sugar and general merchandise will make necessary a great development of the wharf facilities, and the need for greater warehouse space and other port improvements is apparent. Modern hotel buildings are already being planned and sites acquired in order to meet the demands of the tourist trade. Many other indications of engineering activity are to be seen in all parts of the island. The United States is in the best position to supply the materials needed for all such improvements.

Mr. Ewing's report is entitled "Markets for Construction Materials and Machinery in Cuba." Special Agents March 12, 1917. It deals with present building activities and with the demand for general construction materials, flooring materials, roofing materials for interior finish, and construction machinery and tools. There is also a chapter on commercial practices and requirements, and several pages of statistical tables.

SUGAR PRICES GO TO NEW HIGH MARK

Present Figures Best In Eight Years and More than Fourth of Crop Still To Be Shipped

Latest sugar prices from the mainland record the highest figure in eight years, 6.72 and more, than a fourth of the output of the Islands still remains to be shipped. If such prices continue, as experts assert that they will from present indications, the Islands' sugar industry will be proportionately benefited. But it is admitted that such prices are needed to offset increased costs and to make results for the year commensurate with last year, taking also into consideration increased yields and increased costs. It indicates that the sugar industry of the world is established on a basis of satisfactory prices for an indefinite period, according to local experts.

Distinct relief is manifested by sugar shippers on present indications, that there will be no interference in transportation convenience until, at least, the present crop has been marketed, and that then the government will make provision for accommodations for freight of next year's crop if any of the present steamers be then commended. This view is taken from not only the reports that approach assurances that the two Matson steamers will be not requisitioned at present and not unless urgently needed for transport or hospital purposes but also from evident indications in other directions that the government will encourage sugar production here and throw as few as possible obstacles in its way during the continuance of the war because of the great need of the country and its allies for sugar supplies.

In the past ten days shipments of sugar have been 10,300 tons which brings the total shipments to date to approximately 437,000 tons out of a total crop of 643,820 of which it is estimated 630,000 tons will be marketed by the season's end.

At the present time the Matson line is aiding the pineapple packers in a drive to get canned pineapples to market and the Hydrex will carry all pineapples and no sugar on its next voyage to the mainland. This arrangement will still further put the sugar shipments behind schedule but with no interference expected with the regular liners from the government this is not deemed so material as it might otherwise be. It is true that there are large stocks in warehouses but reports that they are filled so as to leave no further accommodations are denied.

REFINERS MUST BUY SUGAR THEY REQUIRE

NEW YORK, July 12.—The market developed strength today and closed strong. Buyers for Cuban raw sugar at 5 1/2c and freight, this being significant of the merit of the statistical situation.

The simple facts are that refiners need sugar and must buy regardless of their inclination to pursue a waiting policy in the hope of Washington forcing lower prices. The holding has only postponed the day of reckoning for any sharp demand for export or from the domestic buyers may force them into the market and might even cause a new high level for raws. In the opinion of some observers, Cuba controls the situation, and the refusal reported by Senator Lodge to meet the wishes of Washington and fix prices for raws is not surprising, considering the circumstances.

It is pointed out here that the surplus of the crop, after allowing for the sugar already sold to the British commission and not shipped is not large, whereas, on the other hand, there is a demand from all quarters to be filled. Javans may attract attention because of their cheapness, but it is a question if the shipping can be spared by the Allies to bring these sugars to Europe. In fact, recent reports of large purchases in that island are rather discredited locally. There has been a decided improvement in the export demand that explains in part the sudden desire of refiners to cover with raw sugars, at the close, Arduous and Howells being credited with large purchases at 5 1/2c, and no sellers now at that figure. Business has been done at 6.90c in bond for round lots, South American taking quantities of 50,000 tons. Other neutral countries need supplies, but the embargo may interfere with shipment in some cases.

The weather has been against the domestic demand, but preserving requirements should act as a stimulus before long.

The American and Howells are taking business in a restricted way at 7.50c. The trade has been stirred by the attacks of the World on the coffee and sugar exchange as well as on local refiners claiming that the prevailing price of sugar can be laid to manipulation. Some think that the campaign is inspired by people short of raw sugar, the desire being apparently to direct the attention of Washington to the alleged abuses.

However, sight is lost of the legitimate function that futures have filled in providing the planted with a place for hedging against his crop the excess of outside speculation being found on all exchanges.

WAGE QUESTION HAS GOOD ARGUMENTS FOR ALL TO CONSIDER

Plantations Find Costs Increased and Will Be Called Upon To Bear War Brunt in Added Tax While Bonuses May Be More

While no demands have been made for wage increases by plantation laborers of the sugar planters so far as has been reported, the article which recently appeared in the Hawaii Hoki and the letter addressed to The Advertiser by Fred Makino indicate that it is probable that some such demands may be presented. The arguments offered as to the increased living costs are found at basis and undoubtedly the laborers find, as do other people not only of these Islands but of the whole country and indeed practically the whole world, that a dollar does not go nearly so far as it did, but the same arguments apply to the sugar producers and their increased costs.

Two Sides To Question

Talking with representatives of some of the agencies for the sugar plantations another view point is brought out. There is no denial of the fact that living costs have gone up; the answer is that the sugar producers, suppliers, materials and equipment have risen for the companies just as have living costs and other expenses of the laborer and hence profits have not been increased over last year. It is further added that the plantation companies are also to be called upon to bear a large share of the burdens of the war. Increased taxes are to be levied on incomes in the first instance, and to this there will be, it is expected, a further addition in the so-called excess profits tax.

Bonus Money Larger

The laborer receives the same general wage as before, is an argument that was advanced, and he also receives a bonus based on sugar prices, on the price the producers receive gross and not of the net profit of the sugar. Thus it is, the argument continued, that even with sugar at a high price the added costs faced this year over last reduce net profits and taxes will still further cut them below those upon which were based the bonus which is now being paid to labor. While the laborer feels war prices the plantations feel them much more and there is a decrease in net receipts so that labor's share is large in proportion to that which some scale do not bear the weight which they otherwise would.

Taxes Add To Costs

War taxes are certain to figure largely in the accounts of all of the more prosperous plantations this year and next. The crops have been good and the prevailing price has been high and promises to be higher this year than for the latter part of last season. For the remainder of the harvest labor will receive the benefit of this in higher bonuses and it is estimated that the bonus payments this year will be larger than they were a year ago while company profits will not be proportionately as large.

Plantation agencies are hoping that there will be no demand made for wage increases even though they recognize the likelihood of it. They are not talking of what may occur if such demands shall be made nor what reply would be given but it is evident that they have reason to feel that with war burdens falling and to fall upon them the arguments that have been advanced for higher wages scale do not bear the weight which they otherwise would.

PINEAPPLE SCHEME AT WAIALEE UNDECIDED

Industrial Board Postpones Decision Until Next Monday

Consideration of the proposal to have the boys of the Waialee Industrial School go into the cultivation of pineapples on a commercial basis was taken up by the board of industrial schools at a meeting held yesterday in Judge Keen's chambers. No decision was arrived at and the proposition will be discussed further at a meeting to be held at three o'clock next Monday afternoon.

The board has practically decided to try the experiment, but has not yet arrived at a decision as to the manner and means to be employed. Several offers have been made by corporations and individuals who would go into the business with the boys on a profit-sharing basis. Two offers, especially, look attractive to the board, which will, however, call for bids, the contract to go to the concern making the best offer and giving the best advantages.

At Waialee there is a tract of land containing about eight hundred acres, which is eminently adapted to the cultivation of pineapples. Should everything go through as expected, it is believed that in a few years the school will be placed on a self-supporting basis.

REFINERIES OBJECT TO PROGRAM ON TAX

United States Is Dominating Factor in World's Market But View of Future Gloomy

Point of view of the sugar refiner on the proposed legislation on sugar taxation is shown in the following article which was published in the American Sugar Bulletin, a weekly bulletin issued by the American Sugar Refining company.

"The legislative program at Washington has finally made itself felt in the world's sugar market. With the changed conditions brought by the European war the United States has become the dominating influence in the world's sugar market.

"There are three proposals at Washington: 1.—To put an ad valorem tax of 10% additional duty on imported raw sugar. 2.—To place a half cent a pound excise on all sugars whether domestic or foreign. 3.—To cancel the century-old drawback privilege of the duty on exported refined sugar made from imported raws.

"Looking at it from the world's market alone the confused legislative program at Washington means higher prices of American refined sugar for Allied and neutral countries. The cancelling of the drawback and the imposition of an excise tax on exports may mean the end of export refined sugars from the United States. The proposed action practically establishes an embargo on refined sugar against the world, which of course means no revenue for the government. Naturally the refined sugar producers supplied by the United States to Europe will be drawn from other sources, part possible through other foreign refiners and more probably larger quantities of raws from Cuba. The withdrawal of the drawback and the imposition of an excise tax of a half cent a pound would create a differential against the United States to the world's markets of over a cent and a half a pound. Such a differential of course may temporarily advance the world's market. On the other hand it has been argued in Washington by senators that the world's sugar market will be lowered. That the action taken is going to affect the world's market is already apparent. It should be set down that the action taken at Washington is against the advice of the entire sugar industry of the United States, except certain cane producers. Concentrated buying of Cubans would still leave Java as a source of supply. It is a long way to Java, so far in fact that England has not found it attractive of late. It would be interesting if they shifted that task temporarily to the United States as a courteous reply to the Senate Committee.

"But of course, following the uncertainties of a staple involved in every session of congress, there may be reconsideration by the Committee, or a vote by the senate, or a compromise by the conferees."

Production Inadequate

"None of the sugar estates in the Vera Cruz consular district is now being operated at full capacity," Consul Canada writes. "Approximately 50 per cent of the plants are working at 60 per cent capacity, 80 per cent are working at less than half capacity, and the remainder are idle. As a result production is only about half the normal amount, and at the end of the current season the supply will be much less than the demand. The price is governed mainly by the figure at which foreign sugar can be imported. On account of the high cost of sugar in all countries and the present level of ocean freight rates, the retail price is two or three times higher than in normal years. Current production being less than the domestic consumption, import duties have been removed from sugar."

Little Refined Made

"In this district only one estate manufactures refined sugar, using the system employed in large refineries in the United States. The others produce the grade known as chemical or plantation white. Containing a very small proportion of glucose, it does not keep long, especially in the damp climate of the coast. The white sugar is made in three forms: granulated and cube sugar, and old-fashioned sugar loaves of conical shape, weighing from 12 to 25 pounds."

BLAZON TYPE NOT NECESSARY

Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy needs no glaring headline to attract the public eye. The simple statement that all chemists sell it is sufficient, as every family knows its value. It has been used for forty years and is just what its name implies. For sale by All Dealers, Benson, Smith & Co., Agents for Hawaii.

M'BRYDE TO BETTER ITS BOILING HOUSE PLANT THIS SEASON

Will Bring Saving in Fuel and Regulate Size of Grains of Raw Sugar Produced

PART OF EQUIPMENT IS ALREADY ON HAND

Rats Are Great Pest On Kauai and Destroy Many Tons of Sugar On Several Plantations

(Mail Special To The Advertiser)

LIIHUE, July 25.—McBryde Sugar Company contemplates greatly improving the mill equipment this coming season. The first thing will be to change over one of their twelve foot pans from cast to calandria type. The calandria has already arrived and will be put in just as soon as this crop is off. Another new ten foot pan is to be added besides a new quadruple standard effect; also a preheater and a new vacuum pump are to be installed. With all these additions to the boiling house it is hoped that the requirements for fuel outside of bagasse will be greatly reduced besides giving sufficient pan capacity for improving the size of the sugar grain.

The weather conditions on Kauai have been very abnormal this year. The winter and early spring rains have continued almost without interruption up to the present time, and while they have not been heavy they have been of sufficient quantity to keep all the ditches full. None of the plantations have, as yet, had the least shortage of water. This year there has been a considerable increase in the damage done by rats. For the last year or so they seem to have been increasing but this year they are particularly bad all over the island. On one plantation alone it is estimated the loss will amount to from 300 to 400 tons of sugar. On another plantation, a field from which it was expected to get sixty tons, gave only a little over forty-five tons.

Any one who can furnish a sure, economical method of killing rats will find a good position on Kauai.

SHOWERS ARE HELP TO YOUNG CROPS ON HAWAII, SAY GROWERS

Showers which are reported to have fallen pretty generally over Hawaii the latter part of last week have brought some relief to agriculturists on the Big Island and have helped grow vegetables, but have not been sufficient to materially benefit the cane growers, unless they mark the real breaking of the drought. While it is fortunate that the present crop was well advanced before the drought was felt, it has had some effect on the next year crop and a greater effect still on the very young cane.

An interview with a cane grower, published in the Hilo Post, tells of conditions in various parts of Hawaii that are at best threatening. It says: "I am glad to learn that this splendid rain is general throughout the island—if only the report is true," said a cane grower in referring to the heavy showers of the past two nights. "About a week ago," continued the speaker, "I had occasion to make a trip around the island, and what with the dusty roads and the appearance of the young cane in its dying condition, the trip was far from being a satisfactory one. If this rain had not broken the drought, there would have been a tremendous loss in the next year's cane crop. As it is, there will be a noticeable difference."

"And this is a similar speech to which the public has become accustomed for the last month or six weeks. From Kau especially have we heard much of the drought and its damaging effects. Oldtimers of the district have given many reasons for the unusual condition, none, however, of which seem to have made any particular difference, since it just naturally didn't rain."

Statistics from the weather bureau tell of the rain shortage for the past four months on various parts of the island of Hawaii. Kohala Mill is 10.41 inches below normal; Honokaa, 13.59; Paauhau, 17.94; Laupahoehoe, 25.41; Pepee, 24.33, and proportionately the same in other sections.

As the Big Island depends so much more upon rainfall than the other islands, where irrigation is more practiced, it has suffered more seriously, and Maui also has felt the effects of a dry spell. Here there are no reports of probable serious damages to crops, however.

From Kauai, instead of reports of drought, the rains have been abnormal for the season and crops have proportionately benefited.